

ABSTRACT

An improvement in a seal assembly for sealing with a rotatable component extending within the seal assembly and defining a longitudinal axis of rotation, the seal assembly being of a type including a seal element retained by a seal housing, where one of the seal element and the seal housing is constructed from a compressible material, where the seal element includes a seal engagement surface and where the seal housing includes a housing engagement surface. The improvement includes one of the seal engagement surface and the housing engagement surface being comprised of the compressible material and the other being oriented in a plane normal to the longitudinal axis of rotation of the component extending within the seal assembly and defining a depression for providing an isolated gap between the seal engagement surface and the housing engagement surface for receiving the compressible material to restrain movement of the seal element relative to the seal housing.